



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 1013***

LCO No. 3231

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING DOG FUND REIMBURSEMENTS TO TOWNS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-348 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 The [State Treasurer] Commissioner of Agriculture, at the end of  
4 each fiscal year, shall [set aside] request the transfer from fees received  
5 [by him] pursuant to section 22-347, as amended by this act, ten cents  
6 from each dog license issued during the fiscal year [. Such sums shall  
7 be allocated] to The University of Connecticut for investigation and  
8 research concerning the cause, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of  
9 canine diseases. The balance of such fees, if in excess of five thousand  
10 dollars, remaining unexpended on August first following shall be  
11 returned, pro rata, to the towns [which] that paid the same, upon  
12 certification by the commissioner that the town receiving such rebate  
13 has complied with the provisions of this chapter and the regulations  
14 adopted hereunder. A balance of five thousand dollars or less of such  
15 funds shall be carried into the following fiscal year.

16 Sec. 2. Section 22-341 of the general statutes is repealed and the

17 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

18 (a) Each owner or keeper of a licensed dog shall keep around its  
19 neck or body a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to  
20 which shall be securely attached a tag or plate issued to such person by  
21 the town clerk. If any such tag or plate is lost, the owner or keeper of  
22 such dog shall forthwith secure a substitute tag or plate from the town  
23 clerk, at a cost of fifty cents.

24 (b) The town clerk of each town shall order a sufficient number of  
25 such tags or plates from the commissioner, who shall furnish the same  
26 at a cost of five cents each, which cost shall be paid by the town on the  
27 approval of the town clerk. Any balance of the moneys received by the  
28 commissioner after deducting the cost of the tags, the expenses  
29 incidental to their distribution to the town clerks and the expenses  
30 incidental to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, shall be  
31 accounted for by the commissioner to the Comptroller. [and paid to  
32 the State Treasurer and credited to the dog fund.] The design and the  
33 shape of such tags or plates shall be changed each year, and such tags  
34 or plates for each year shall be of uniform design and material  
35 throughout the state. Any dog found roaming at large upon any public  
36 highway or common or upon the premises of any person other than its  
37 owner, without a tag as provided in this section, shall be presumed to  
38 be an unlicensed dog.

39 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 22-344 of the general statutes is  
40 repealed and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

41 (c) No person shall engage in the business of grooming or  
42 maintaining a grooming facility until such person has obtained from  
43 the commissioner a license to maintain such facility under such  
44 regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and  
45 humane treatment of such animals and the protection of the public  
46 safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of one  
47 hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be  
48 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the

49 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with,  
50 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the  
51 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such  
52 grooming is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to  
53 the municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed  
54 annually, not later than December [twenty-first] thirty-first, in  
55 accordance with the provisions of this section, and may be transferred  
56 by the licensee to other premises upon approval of the commissioner.

57 Sec. 4. Section 22-347 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

59 Within thirty days after receipt of the fees for dog licenses and tags,  
60 each town clerk shall deduct one dollar for each dog licensed, two  
61 dollars for each kennel license issued and fifty cents for each  
62 replacement tag issued and pay the balance to the town treasurer or  
63 other proper fiscal officer. Each town treasurer or fiscal officer, as the  
64 case may be, shall keep a separate dog fund account of all fees received  
65 from the town clerk, and all receipts from the municipal animal control  
66 officer and expended by [him] said officer under the provisions of this  
67 chapter, and shall pay to the [State Treasurer] Commissioner of  
68 Agriculture, on September first of each year, fifty per cent of all  
69 moneys received from the sale of licenses prior to July first, or forty per  
70 cent of all such moneys if the town has made a survey of unlicensed  
71 dogs in accordance with the provisions of section 22-349, and include  
72 with such payment a statement of the number of licenses issued  
73 during such year. All moneys received from licenses sold after June  
74 thirtieth and all moneys received from the municipal animal control  
75 officer and all license fees returned to the town by the State Treasurer,  
76 at the request of the commissioner, under the provisions of section 22-  
77 348, as amended by this act, shall be kept by the town treasurer or  
78 other fiscal officer in the separate dog fund account. The town  
79 treasurer or other fiscal officer shall, on the ensuing September first,  
80 send fifty per cent, or forty per cent as the case may be, of all license  
81 fees in such account to the [State Treasurer] commissioner, including

82 any penalty fees collected pursuant to section 22-338. All payments to  
83 the [State Treasurer] commissioner shall be accompanied by an  
84 account thereof in a form prescribed by the [State Treasurer]  
85 commissioner and a copy of such account shall be sent to the  
86 commissioner. Upon the failure of any town treasurer or other fiscal  
87 officer to pay any amount due pursuant to this section, or any portion  
88 thereof, within forty-five days from its due date, the [Treasurer]  
89 commissioner shall add interest of one and one-fourth per cent per  
90 month or fraction thereof on the amount unpaid per month or fraction  
91 thereof from the due date of such payment to the date of payment and  
92 a penalty in the amount of ten per cent of the amount unpaid or fifty  
93 dollars, whichever is greater. All funds in the dog fund account, except  
94 such funds as are to be sent to the [State Treasurer] commissioner,  
95 shall be used only for the compensation of municipal animal control  
96 officers, license certificates, tags, the construction and maintenance of  
97 dog pounds, the detention and care of impounded dogs in accordance  
98 with section 22-336, municipal animal control officer's equipment, dog  
99 supplies and such veterinary fees as are provided for by law or  
100 regulations and shall not be used for any other purpose except upon  
101 written approval of the commissioner. No fees paid into the treasury of  
102 the town for tags or licenses for dogs shall be paid back to the persons  
103 from whom they were collected.

104 Sec. 5. Subsection (f) of section 22-355 of the general statutes is  
105 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

106 (f) Sheep, goats, horses, hogs, cattle, poultry and domestic rabbits  
107 shall be confined or shall be enclosed by a fence or wall of material and  
108 height sufficient to restrain them from roaming. In any case in which  
109 any town has paid an amount in excess of one hundred dollars for  
110 such damage to the owner of any such animal or poultry, and the  
111 amount of such damage cannot be collected from the owners, keepers  
112 or harborers of such dogs, the selectmen, town manager or other chief  
113 executive officer of such town, city or borough shall forward to the  
114 [State Treasurer] commissioner a statement of the facts, showing the

115 amount so paid, and the State Treasurer, at the request of the  
116 commissioner, shall reimburse such town, city or borough for the  
117 amount of such damage, from the funds received by the state under  
118 the provisions of this chapter.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To transfer the administration of the Dog Fund from the State Treasurer's office to the Commissioner of Agriculture and set a minimum balance under which reimbursement to towns would no longer be required.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*